

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## **Minutes for the GCBA committee meeting held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Monday 7th January 2019.**

In attendance were Patrick Shields (President), Andrew Bull (Secretary), Jim Simons (Treasurer), Richard Harris, Paul Denning, Anne Swannell, Richard Butland (REC chair).  
Chris Coleman (Auditor) was also present for the initial discussion of the accounts.

### **Finances**

1. Jim and Chris confirmed that the audit of the accounts for 2017-18 is complete. They had produced a draft report on some anomalies in the figures, and agreed to re-draft this to avoid the suggestion that there would be further errors. The accounts and this report, when tidied up by Jim, will be published by Patrick in a "member's only" area on the website, and advertised. County members will need to register and obtain a code/password to obtain access.
2. Jim noted that the full accounts for the Green Point event and the Congress have never been published, only the bottom line. It was agreed that these should also be issued on the members-only pages of the web.
3. There was some discussion about how we could try to avoid such anomalies for occurring in the future. Chris noted that one option would be a pre-defined budget, but it was agreed this would be difficult because the timing of payments is so irregular. It is hoped that the new second signatory set-up will help to avoid paying money from the wrong account, and it was stressed that the second signatories need to be alert to possible mistakes and to challenge the Treasurer as required. Also, an, as intended, better-documented handover to the new Treasurer should help matters run more smoothly in the future.
4. The new proposal for our Monday night rental needs to be confirmed by CBC. Jim noted that the change in the board duplication process meant that we now had to pay VAT on this, and the cost had gone up more than we might have expected.
5. Jim has spoken to the person who has been suggested as a possible new Treasurer, and will continue that strand; it was agreed that Patrick will discuss the suggestion with Ashok Kwatra of CBC.
6. There was a brief discussion of the archives of the GCBA accounts. Jim has records going back many years, but noted that there are gaps, including for 2016-17 - people agreed to check for details of this in their e-mails. It was agreed that the "front page" of the accounts for each year, as made public at the AGM, should be kept forever, but that more details were not required for that long.
7. Similarly, it was agreed that not everything covered in the minutes would still be significant 10 years later - however, in some cases they were the only records (e.g. the results of events). It was suggested that we should find a suitable location to store the important minutes. Patrick and Paul will consider options for storing of the softcopy archive which we have for the more recent years.

### **County Strategy**

8. Patrick has circulated a new version of this for 2018-19. It was suggested, and agreed, that the wording should be made more positive in a few places. We mentioned the idea of advertising EBED and its offerings to clubs across the county. The strategy will be advertised via points of contacts at the clubs in the county, both affiliated and non-affiliated.

# **GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

## **Trophies**

9. Andrew and Paul agreed to discuss the issue of which trophies should be extended to allow more winners' names to be added, and come to the committee with a proposal in early March.

## **EBU AGM**

10. This had been discussed briefly at the December meeting. Patrick noted that the minutes had now been issued, and he felt they were a fair representation of the AGM. Nobody had any matters to raise.

## **Stanley Shield**

11. As noted at the December meeting, the problem with catering for so many people at the same time had led to the proposed running of this event in January being cancelled. It was suggested that we could alter the format by splitting the entries into two halves, each half dining at a different time. Otherwise a different venue would be needed, and Patrick invited suggestions.